



Winchester Police Officer  
**Monty Corbett**

ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR

With just two years of experience under his belt, Officer Monty Corbett is no stranger to the justice and public safety community. After graduating from Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor’s degree in Police Administration and serving seven years as a Lexington Probation and Parole officer, Corbett decided to pursue his life-long dream of being a police officer. Though originally from Webster County, he found his fit at Winchester Police Department. As a night-shift officer, Corbett says he would want to work on no other shift. He has developed a passion for the action and challenges presented on night-shift patrol. He is newly married to his wife Charlana.

**As a child I experienced some pretty hard situations.** Living in a household with domestic violence from my father, I saw what my mom, sisters and I went through. As a young child I wanted to help and be there for others. As a child, I didn’t have the ability to help because of my youth, but I understood there were people there to step in and help, and that’s what I wanted to do.

**My eighth day on the job, I was involved in a shooting.** I and four other officers were shot at and had to return fire. I struck the subject two times. I was fresh out of the academy and already was in one of the scariest situations law enforcement can be in. That was a very unique experience and one I hope I never have to go through again.

**No. 1, I give a lot of credit to DOCJT,** Ben Wilcox and the firearms training section. Since that was one of the last things I did before leaving the academy, it was like I still was in that mode, and my training kicked in. Fear went out the window and I did what I was supposed to do. Without that, who knows how it would have gone. Initially I received reports that the suspect didn’t make it, but she did, and she was tried and convicted for her role that day.

**But when I thought I was solely or partly responsible for someone’s death,** however justified by the law of

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Kentucky, I had internal issues with it. What would happen after the fact was not something that was discussed in the academy. When my religious convictions, which I wouldn’t have thought would play a role in a deadly-force situation, did, it took a toll on me. But with the help of my department, which was excellent, counseling and speaking to pastors, I learned law enforcement is necessary and there is a difference between killing and murder. If again forced to protect myself or another officer in the course of my duties, I will do that in my career.

**Every call I go on, I want to pretend it’s the first time** I’m going to that call. We go to a lot of the same addresses with the same people every week and sometimes multiple times per shift. If I answer a call differently than I did six months ago because I’ve been there a 100 times before, I may not give them the same respect. I try to remember they are calling 911 for a reason. They need our help; they need us there, and it’s respectful and the right thing to do to act like it is the first call you’ve ever had at that residence.

**There was a young guy, about 16,** and he was having thoughts of self harm. Another officer knew him very well. Over the course of a couple weeks, he would take time in his personal schedule to go see this kid. I saw them strike up a friendship and they had a common interest in music. The boy liked old vinyl records, and this officer had an outstanding collection. One day I was with the officer on his shift when we ran into the young man, and the officer said, ‘I have something for you.’ He popped his trunk and pulled out his personal

collection of all his vinyl and gave it to the kid. He said, ‘I care about you and want you to make it. I want you to know we’re here for you and care about you.’ The officer was thinking that one action would help and he put someone before himself, and didn’t think twice about it. I think that is being a good officer. He put someone else before himself and that’s what we all ought to do.

**Don’t forget why you got into this job to begin with.** I think that may get lost after 10 to 15 years. Maybe you’ve already become discouraged. I’ve seen it in fellow officers and officers in my family. They get caught up in the day to day or get so jaded and discouraged in what they are doing in the community. We’re trying to right every wrong, and can’t. But everyone looks to us and always calls us when they need help, whether they agree with things going on in the country with policing or whether they like the department. When the time comes and they need help, they call us because they know we are coming regardless and will help them.

**Every officer needs to remember every day,** when they put on their badge, that they got into this for one reason. Just say it to yourself every day when you’re going out there: ‘Today, I’m going to help somebody and that’s why I got into this job to begin with.’ If I say it every day for 20 years, I’ll know when I go home at night that I’ve done something good and done it right, and I won’t lose any sleep. 🏞️

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